

Appl. No. 10/657,543
Amendment dated August 25, 2005
Amendment and Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 25, 2005. Claims 1-51 are pending in the application. The Examiner notes that claims 1-19 and 26-45 are withdrawn from consideration. These claims are now canceled.

The Examiner indicates that claims 20-25 and 46-51 are rejected.

The Examiner indicates that claims 20-25 and 46-51 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Hurlburt.

Each of the independent claims 20 and 46 has been amended to point out that there are two different shrouds or annular ring members that are connected or nested together as part of the method. The first shroud is an existing shroud mounted at the ground opening. As part of the method, the second shroud or ring member provides a lid pivotally (claim 46) or movably (claim 20) attached to the second annular ring or shroud.

Hurlburt provides no such connected or nesting rings/shrouds as claimed. Further, applicant attaches interlocking member (e.g. 45 in drawings) that interlocks with a rotary locking member mounted on the peripheral portion of the lid. This construction allows an existing opening with an annular shroud or ring structure to be retrofitted with a secure locking cover structure, the second ring covering and denying access to the first annular ring (existing).

Based upon the above comments, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 25, 2005.



Seth M. Nehrbass

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